

IN THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A dental restoration comprising:

a fiber-reinforced structural component having fibers greater than ~~about~~ 10 mm in length embedded within a first polymeric matrix material; and

a pontic disposed on the structural component, the pontic having randomly dispersed fibers with maximum lengths no greater than ¼ inch embedded within a second polymeric matrix material wherein the first and second polymeric matrix are the same or different.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the pontic comprises fibers having lengths in the range from about 0.01 to about 6 mm.

11. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the fibers embedded within the first polymeric matrix are oriented, woven, longitudinally distributed, normally oriented to a longitudinal axis, or a mixture thereof.

12. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the strain to failure value of the pontic is about equal to or higher than the strain to failure value of the structural component.

13. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the randomly dispersed fibers are selected from the group consisting of glass, carbon, ceramic, graphite, polyaramid fibers, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

14. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the pontic further comprises a particulate filler.

15. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 14 wherein the particulate filler is selected from the group consisting of a silica, silicate glass, quartz, barium borosilicate, strontium silicate, barium silicate, strontium borosilicate, borosilicate, lithium silicate, amorphous silica, calcium phosphate, alumina, zirconia, tin oxide, titania, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

16. (Original) A process for forming a dental restoration comprising:
providing a structural element comprised of a first fiber reinforced composite material;

disposing a second composite material thereon, wherein the second composite material comprises randomly dispersed fibers embedded within a polymeric material; and
curing the second composite material.

17. (Original) The process of Claim 16 wherein the structural component is cured prior to disposing the second composite material thereon.

18. (Previously Presented) A dental restoration comprising:
a fiber-reinforced structural component having fibers embedded within a first polymeric matrix material; and
a pontic disposed on the structural component, the pontic having randomly dispersed fibers embedded within a second polymeric matrix material wherein the first and second polymeric matrix are the same or different and the fibers embedded within the first polymeric matrix are not randomly dispersed relative to each other.

19. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 18 wherein the randomly dispersed fibers have maximum lengths no greater than 1/4 inch.

20. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 18 wherein the pontic comprises fibers having lengths from about 0.01 to about 6 mm.

21. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 18 wherein the fibers embedded within the first polymeric matrix are oriented, woven, longitudinally distributed, normally oriented to a longitudinal axis, or a mixture thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 18 wherein the strain to failure value of the pontic is about equal to or higher than the strain to failure value of the structural component.

23. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 18 wherein the randomly dispersed fibers are selected from the group consisting of glass, carbon, ceramic, graphite, polyaramid fibers, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

24. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 18 wherein the pontic further comprises a particulate filler.

25. (Previously Presented) The dental restoration of Claim 24 wherein the particulate filler is selected from the group consisting of a silica, silicate glass, quartz, barium borosilicate, strontium silicate, barium silicate, strontium borosilicate, borosilicate, lithium silicate, amorphous silica, calcium phosphate, alumina, zirconia, tin oxide, titania, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.